

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 78, Number 2*

2014

*Article 11*

---

## Happiness

Imelda Wistey\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©2014 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

# Happiness

By: IMELDA WISTEY

Trying to describe  
happiness

is like trying to  
describe water.

Ask anyone to  
define water

and all you get  
are stares.

Moisture? Dew? Rain  
on a summer's eve?

75% of our  
body weight?

70% of the  
earth's surface?

We are surrounded  
by water,

yet we cannot  
capture its essence

in words. Plato  
would say

the perfect form  
of water

lives in the  
ethers,

the true idea  
of wetness.

But day  
after day

we are chained  
to the cave,

watching  
shadows

dance in the  
embers.

How can language  
evoke the cool flush

splashed upon  
the cheeks

explodes into  
an array of

define how one look  
beyond the cave

when the cavern  
of the heart

tremors because  
words cannot

gives the fettered  
prisoner a chance

to live

---

**Imelda Wistey** is a senior from West Des Moines, Iowa, who graduated in May with a degree in English literature and a minor in classical studies. She will be attending graduate school this fall. When not working on homework, you can usually find Imelda splashing around in a pool or reading a good book outside when it's a nice sunny day.